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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

SOME ROYAL CARPETS.

THE finest carpets of the East, which we all desire to have, are mostly not woven, but done with the needle. In one of the discourses of Buddha, he speaks of "well-made chariots, yoked to excellent horses, and covered with carpets of elegant stitching." The pattern is drawn on the warp, and the carpet-makers put their stitches round two of its threads, then twice tie into knots the woollen, the silken, or golden thread, and cut it off. The finer carpets or rugs are not unfrequently enriched

Though Europeans mostly prefer silken or, as we should say, velvet carpet, the Easterns mostly value those made of the finest wool, and I am told, use silken cords for the warp. We shall never have any fine carpets in Europe until we give up the brutal habit of walking on them with our shoes. Dirty shoes or hob-nailed boots destroy them in an incredibly short space of time, while the Musselman carpets last for centuries, and up to a certain time they actually improve by the wear of naked feet. Mr. Vincent Robinson, who published that splendid book on Oriental carpets, had a woollen lustre carpet from Badakshan of a deep mahogany color, enriched here and there with geometrical pat-



THE EARLY ROSE, DRAWN BY F. LIPPS.

with texts from the Koran, and ornamented with lovely patterns and gorgeous colors; they take eight, ten, twelve, or even more years to make. A small rug in the Paris Exhibition of 1878 cost £1,500. Those carpets were mostly made in rich men's houses for presents, and often by the women. A Persian in London, being shown a large modern Persian carpet, said: "What a rich man that carpet-seller must have been!" When asked why, he said, "carpets like this are only made by men's wives, and he must have had fifteen wives to have made so big a carpet."

terns of blue, white, and black. The carpet looked as if it might have been the skin of the beast in the Apocalypse. The last splendid carpets that were made in Europe were, I believe, manufactured for a King of Poland in the seventeenth century. They were of silk velvet, intermingled with gold and silver thread, and it is said the manufacturer, Mercherski, imported Persian carpet-makers for their manufacture; at any rate, he imitated the Persian and Indian examples he brought with him. —Professor G. Aitchinson, A. R. A., before the Society of Arts.